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CITRUS

MARCH FORECAST

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



FLORIDA
 AGRICULTURE

March 8, 2001

ALL ORANGES UNCHANGED AT 223.0 MILLION BOXES

The 2000-01 Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board remains at 223.0 million boxes. The components of this forecast are the early and midseason oranges (including Navels) at 127.0 million and Valencias at 96.0 million boxes. March forecasts have deviated from final production by an average of 1.7 percent over the past 10 non-freeze seasons with four forecasts higher and six below actual production. Beginning in 1994-95, citrus crops have been larger than 200.0 million boxes except in 1998-99. If realized, this season's crop would be four percent less than last season's 233.0 million boxes and the fourth largest recorded. The highest production on record is 244.0 million boxes in 1997-98.

The route survey conducted February 26-27 shows the percent of rows harvested ahead of last season but behind the prior nine seasons used in the regression. This percent combined with the estimated utilization produces an indication supportive of the current forecast.

EARLY & MIDSEASONS 127.0 MILLION BOXES

For the ninth season in a row, production of these varieties is expected to total over 100.0 million boxes. The current forecast of 127.0 million boxes will be the fourth largest crop if realized. This forecast falls five percent short of last

Citrus production, March 1, 2001
 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1998-99	1999-00	Feb 8, 2001	Mar 8, 2001
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	--- 1,000 boxes ---			
FLORIDA	112,000	134,000	127,000	127,000
California	21,000	40,000	34,000	34,000
Texas	1,250	1,540	1,900	1,900
Arizona	550	600	500	500
Total Above Varieties	134,800	176,140	163,400	163,400
Valencias:				
FLORIDA	74,000	99,000	96,000	96,000
California	15,000	27,000	25,000	25,000
Texas	180	200	200	200
Arizona	600	500	550	550
Total Valencias	89,780	126,700	121,750	121,750
All Oranges:				
FLORIDA	186,000	233,000	223,000	223,000
California	36,000	67,000	59,000	59,000
Texas	1,430	1,740	2,100	2,100
Arizona	1,150	1,100	1,050	1,050
Total All Oranges	224,580	302,840	285,150	285,150

FORECAST DATES 2000-01 SEASON

April 10, 2001	May 10, 2001
June 12, 2001	July 11, 2001

season's 134.0 million and nine percent below the 1997-98 record of 140.0 million boxes.

Harvest is nearing completion and is expected to be finished by the end of March. Estimated recorded utilization through March 4 is 123.8 million boxes.

The **Navel** portion of this crop is reduced 400,000 boxes to 5.1 million boxes. At this point in the season, the route survey results compared with the estimated utilization gives a strong indication and supports the lowering of this forecast.

VALENCIAS REMAIN 96.0 MILLION BOXES

The growth rate followed a more normal path in February after slacking off in January. Even with a slightly larger expectation, size continues below average. The loss from droppage remains below the level of the ten previous seasons. It is projected to continue at an average rate and be final slightly above the series minimum.

Harvest has just begun with only a very low percentage of the rows harvested. Comparison of the results from the route survey and estimated certifications will be a stronger indicator in future months.

FCOJ 1.58 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange FCOJ yield is increased from 1.54 to 1.58 gallons per box of 42.0 degrees Brix concentrate. The early and mid portion is increased to 1.54 gallons per box from 1.51 last month. The Valencia portion is also increased and is now expected to yield 1.65 gallons. All of the projected increases in yield are dependent on processors and harvesters following similar patterns of the past several seasons.

Temperatures during February were generally above normal, with below average rainfall. There was an abundance of new growth and bloom of all sizes on trees of all ages in most well cared for groves. Growers and caretakers have been irrigating heavily to maintain good tree condition and juice levels.

TOTAL GRAPEFRUIT MAINTAINED AT 49.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all Florida grapefruit is continued at 49.0 million boxes. The varietal breakdown is also maintained, with white grapefruit at 20.0 million and colored varieties at 29.0 million boxes. The total forecast indicates a crop size 12 percent less than the record high 55.8 million boxes estimated for the 1996-97 season and eight percent below the 53.4 million boxes recorded last season.

The February survey of fruit size of regular bloom fruit remaining in the sample groves indicated a slight increase in the average size for both varieties. However, fruit continues to be small in relation to most recent seasons and both varieties are smaller than last season. As measured by spherical volume, the white grapefruit is seven percent below the 10 season mean and colored grapefruit is nine percent below. No survey work is conducted on the seedy (Duncan) variety.

The February loss survey indicated that fruit droppage from count limbs that have not been "spot picked" has been minimal this season. Loss has been three percent less than last season and four percent below the 10 season mean for white grapefruit. The colored had seven percent less loss than last season and six percent below average.

Comparing the relationship between the route survey (Row Count) conducted on February 26-27 and the estimated utilization to that of recent years, indicates that there is enough remaining volume to attain the forecast levels of both white and colored grapefruit.

Citrus production, March 1, 2001
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1998-99	1999-00	Feb 8, 2001	Mar 8, 2001
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	47,050	53,400	49,000	49,000
White ^{1/}	18,350	21,500	20,000	20,000
Colored	28,700	31,900	29,000	29,000
Texas	6,100	5,930	6,500	6,500
Arizona	750	500	600	600
California	7,300	7,000	7,200	7,200
Total Grapefruit	61,200	66,830	63,300	63,300
Lemons:				
California	16,200	19,600	21,000	21,000
Arizona	3,450	3,100	3,400	3,400
Total Lemons	19,650	22,700	24,400	24,400
Limes: Florida	500	600	250	250
Temples: Florida	1,800	1,950	1,800	1,700
Tangelos: Florida	2,550	2,200	2,100	2,100
K-Early: Florida	80	110	40	40
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	4,950	7,000	5,600	5,600
Early ^{2/}	3,050	4,350	3,500	3,500
Honey	1,900	2,650	2,100	2,100
California ^{3/}	1,500	2,300	2,200	2,200
Arizona ^{3/}	950	850	800	800
Total Tangerines	7,400	10,150	8,600	8,600

^{1/} Includes seedy. ^{2/} Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy. ^{3/} Includes tangelos.

To March 1, the estimated certifications for both white and colored grapefruit were lagging behind certifications of the past seven seasons. White grapefruit is estimated at 6.4 million boxes as compared with 7.6 million last season. Colored grapefruit is estimated at 14.1 million boxes versus the 16.1 million recorded to the same time last season.

In recent weeks, the fresh volume has been very consistent and processing has been increasing. With the rapidly decreasing amounts of the early and midseason oranges and improved grapefruit ratios, processed use should seasonally increase.

TANGERINES HELD AT 5.6 MILLION BOXES

The forecast for all varieties of tangerines is maintained at 5.6 million boxes. The early varieties, comprised of **Fallglo, Robinson, Sunburst, and Dancy** are almost completely harvested, at 3.5 million boxes. The late season **Honey** variety is continued at 2.1 million boxes. If realized, this would be 550,000 boxes less than recorded last season but the second largest crop since the 1979-80 season.

February fruit surveys on the remaining **Honeys** indicated a slight increase in size. However, the recorded loss from droppage since August is 53 percent, nearly equal to the ten season average but much higher than last season. The route survey continues to support the reduction made last month.

TEMPLES REDUCED TO 1.7 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast is lowered 0.1 million boxes to 1.7 million boxes. The February objective surveys indicated a slight reduction in the average size, which is the smallest in the 10 season average. Also, there was a five percent increase of loss from droppage during the month. The route survey of usable remaining rows showed that harvest is lagging behind six of the previous eight seasons and supported the reduction. Estimated harvest to March 1 is 715,000 boxes.

TANGELOS REMAIN AT 2.1 MILLION BOXES

The 2000-01 tangelo crop is almost final. The utilization to March 1, including the gift fruit and other use allocation, is only a few thousand boxes from the forecast total. The last weekly estimated utilization indicated very few boxes certified. As the total crop size has shrunk in recent years, the percent processed has slowly declined. Last season 2.2 million boxes were recorded, with 66 percent of the crop being processed.

K-EARLY CITRUS FINAL AT 40,000 BOXES

The final estimate for K-Early Citrus Fruit is 40,000 boxes, which equals the record low production of 1997-98 and is about one-third of last season's production.

Unadjusted Maturity Tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves, 1999-00 and 2000-01 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.										
ORANGES:										
Late (150 -149)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.51	2.44	8.55	8.79	3.45	3.65	43.36	46.56	3.71	4.09
Nov 1	2.06	2.00	8.72	9.46	4.30	4.80	47.53	50.77	4.15	4.81
Dec 1	1.70	1.74	9.81	10.36	5.85	6.03	51.38	52.14	5.04	5.40
Jan 1	1.47	1.51	10.81	11.10	7.43	7.46	52.51	54.26	5.68	6.02
Feb 1	1.34	1.40	11.68	11.86	8.83	8.57	52.67	53.59	6.15	6.36
Mar 1	1.20	1.21	12.51	12.51	10.48	10.50	52.66	53.85	6.60	6.74

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

Maturity test averages by areas, March 1, 2001

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
ORANGES:						
Late						
Indian River Dist.	24	1.23	13.05	10.68	54.52	7.13
Other Areas	125	1.20	12.40	10.46	53.72	6.66

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions from the February size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period February 14 through 23, 2001. Comparable sizes for 1999 and 2000 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

The chart below compares the relationship of the February 2001 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in February 2000. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from February measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1999	2000	2001
--- Percent ---			
Valencia oranges:			
64 and larger	6.9	10.0	3.4
80	25.0	27.2	18.4
100	38.6	36.3	40.3
125	22.6	19.9	29.5
163 and smaller	6.9	6.6	8.4
White seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	24.3	25.1	20.3
36	23.7	20.1	21.4
40	19.0	19.0	22.0
48	16.1	16.5	17.5
56	7.6	7.6	8.9
63 and smaller	9.3	11.7	9.9
Colored seedless grapefruit:			
32 and larger	14.3	12.2	7.8
36	20.1	16.8	14.8
40	20.7	21.0	24.9
48	19.9	20.4	22.7
56	11.1	13.2	12.8
63 and smaller	13.9	16.4	17.0

CHART 1: Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from February measurements.

